

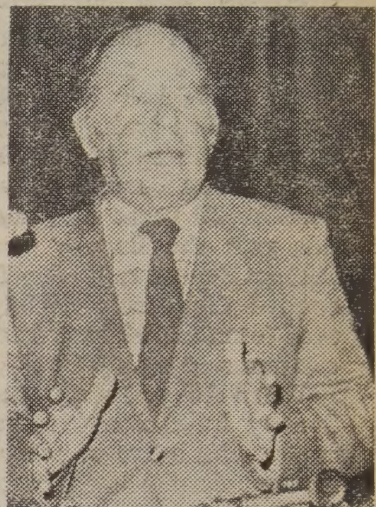
## Grave faces, grave news at AGM — and little comfort from the Minister



ABSORBED, concerned, thoughtful, interested — delegates from all over the country listen intently to the proceedings at The Spastics Society's AGM in London in October. It was a grave occasion, with news of the Society's deficit of £823,000, the highest in its history, and of the way in which services are being affected by inflation and the "intolerable burden" of VAT.

How can the Society solve these and other problems? Some of the answers are to be found in our AGM Report, starting on Page 5.

*comfort from the Minister*



## VAT PLEA: SHOCK 'NO'

THE Government has turned down the Society's plea for exemption from VAT and as a result the Society will lose at least £220,000 to the Exchequer in the current financial year.

The crippling blow to the Society's finances was dealt by Treasury Minister Peter Rees on November 7, in a written reply to former Minister for the Disabled, Alf Morris, and in response to the Society's letter urging, along with seven other charities to be given identical relief from VAT in the same way as local authorities.

The Treasury claims that to exempt charities would be "inappropriate" and that "any wider general relief from VAT for charities would cost too much in revenue and complicate the tax unduly."

ties would cost too much in revenue and complicate the tax unduly."

Mr Morris told Spastics News: "This is a negative and disquieting reply. What troubles me most is that the Government is being two-faced. First of all Patrick Jenkin, the Social Services Minister, says because of cuts in public expenditure, the national charities must play a bigger part in caring—then Sir Geoffrey Howe clobbers the charities with VAT at 15 per cent. "This is having a crippling effect on many charities who passionately want to do much more to help the disabled. I shall go on exerting every possible pressure to help them."

Tim Yeo, the Society's Director, warned:

"The Chancellor hasn't heard the end of the matter. This issue is of major importance to all charities and we are not going to let it drop."

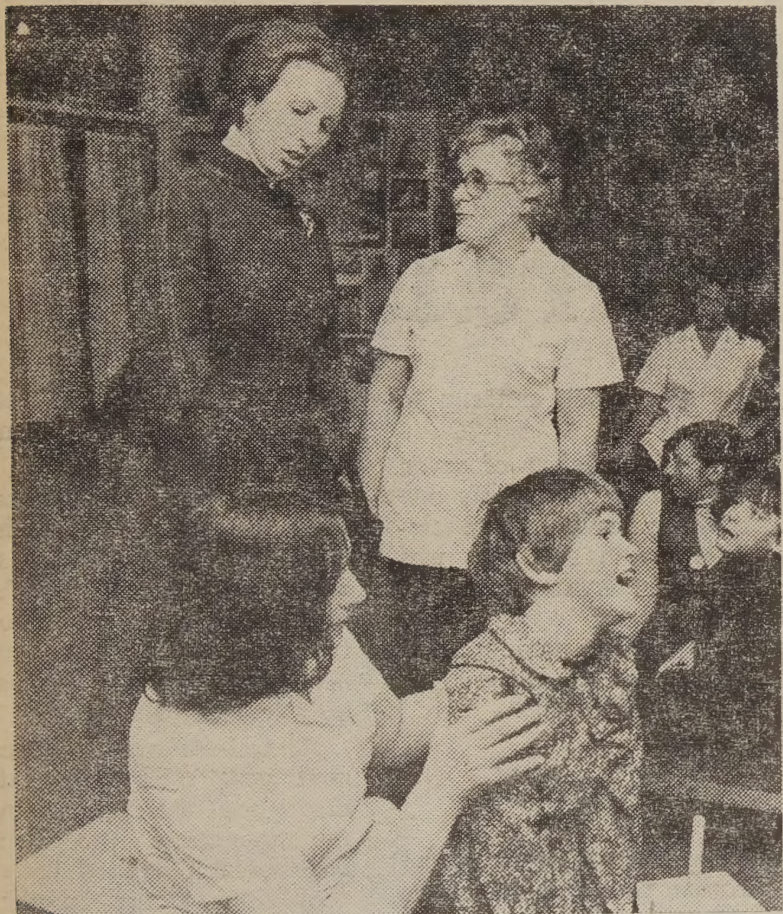
AS the representative of a Government making unpopular cuts, it takes a brave man to face an audience representing people most affected by them. But Minister for the Disabled, Mr Reg Prentice, MP, rose courageously to the occasion when he addressed the Society's AGM, and though he brought little comfort on public spending, his well researched speech earned generous applause.

He warmly praised the work of The Spastics Society, though he knew it was often said that politicians praised voluntary bodies in order to "pass the buck" because the State was not shouldering its responsibilities, and it hoped the volunteers would do the job for them.

This was partly true, he said, but not something new arising from Government cut-backs on spending. "It is a fact that our country hasn't ever done enough, is not doing enough, and never will do enough

Continued on Page 9

## Princess visits school



● PRINCESS Anne watches Maureen Hedley-Clark with Nicola Gardiner, aged 10, as Morella Chilton explains the benefits of physiotherapy.

ON a day of bitter cold, sleet and snow, Princess Anne arrived at the Society's Craig-y-Parc School near Cardiff and was melted by the warmth of her reception. Her visit on November 6 was the climax of the school's 25th Anniversary celebrations and she was shown round by headmistress Mrs Maureen Fowler.

Only the day before the Princess had announced that she was expecting her second baby in the spring, and smiled warmly when some of the children congratulated her.



● PRINCESS Anne with the Society's Chairman, Mrs Joyce Smith, after unveiling the plaque to commemorate the Royal visit.

## Grim outlook on jobs

AS the recession bites deeper and deeper into the British economy, the plight of the disabled workforce grows increasingly grim. Managers throughout the country report the bleak fact that their work centres are facing the same harsh realities as the rest of British industry with the prospect of worse times ahead.

Although the situation is grave, none of the work centres, either national or run by local groups affiliated to the Society, have had to close down completely — as yet.

The North Manchester Work Centre run by the Society is typical, with an average of 45 workers. The assistant manager, Paul Goodier, told Spastics News:

"It's very, very hard indeed. The recession has

really hit the north with the amount of textile industries closing down, an awful lot of people being laid off, local authorities cutting back, and factories going on short time."

The centre's troubles started during the steel strike nine months ago.

"That really did hit us hard because we lost an extremely good contract making wire trays. We decided to make our own goods ornamental hanging baskets of different sizes.

Continued on Page 11

## Young vandals in 'vicious' attacks

MR Timothy Yeo, Director of The Spastics Society, has appealed to the head teachers of all schools in Britain to take strong measures to educate their pupils into a better understanding of the problems of the handicapped.

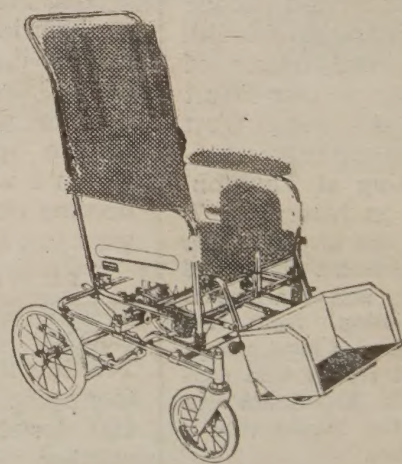
He said the Society had been horrified by recent vicious and wanton attacks

made by schoolchildren between the ages of 12 and 14 on the Society's Chester Work Centre in Blaenau, Chester, which is attended daily by 30 spastic workers.

Every window in the centre has been broken, workshop equipment has been stolen, and the latest incident was discovered after a weekend—a lighted paper had been thrown in and had fallen on to a settee where it had smouldered.

Continued on Page 12

## THINK BRITISH The Newton Avon de Luxe



The Avon de Luxe is now available in three sizes, 12 ins, 14 ins and 16 ins with a choice of chassis for indoor and outdoor use.

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Newton Aids Limited co-operate closely with The Spastics Society in the development of new aids for the handicapped and in the improvements of existing aids.



# She was their 'Fairy Godmother'

## Turning sadness to service

KATHLEEN Jones has known more than her share of sorrow in life for after giving birth to a son affected by cerebral palsy she was assured that it could not happen again. Tragically her second son was also spastic and both boys eventually died, one as a baby and the other at the age of 10.

Instead of turning inwards with grief Mrs Jones and her husband Fred decided to help other parents with spastic children. They made that decision 25 years ago, and this year the Barrow and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society they founded celebrated its quarter century.

When 10 years ago the Society built a residential centre with a live-in house-mother, despite her lack of formal qualifications Mrs Jones was appointed to the post because the Society knew there was "no better person" for the job.

Now at 65 Mrs Jones has retired and her going was marked with a deeply felt tribute movingly given by the Society's Chairman Mrs Denis Rose.

"I cannot think of a better description of this dedicated and devoted lady than to say she has been like a fairy godmother to so many children. Instead of feeling bitter and resentful that she should have been burdened with spastic children, she has been able to comfort and encourage parents who were desperately upset and on the brink of despair.

"She has also been involved in raising funds. We raise every penny of the £15,000 it costs for the centre every year, and has been a great help in doing this over the last 10 years. We shall miss her terribly.

### A gift for Chairman

MRS Joyce Smith, Chairman of The Spastics Society presented a cheque to Miss Charmian Mould, senior regional officer of the Society in the West Region at the West Regional group representatives meeting at Taunton, Somerset, on November 7.

The gift was to mark Miss Mould's retirement at the end of December and is a gesture of appreciation from the Society's affiliated local groups in the West region who contributed to it. Mrs Smith also presented Miss Mould with a piece of china.

Present at the meeting were members of local groups in the region, Mr William A. Burn and Mr Alex Moira, Joint Vice-Chairmen of the Society, Mr Tim Yeo, Director of the Society, and Mr Fritz Janssen, Acting Finance Director.

Miss Mould joined The Spastics Society in 1964.

Mrs Smith commented: "Miss Mould has been a magnificent worker on behalf of the handicapped over many years and we are all very grateful to her for the dedication she has shown. We wish her a happy retirement."

Although Mrs Jones had a five week holiday in Europe with her husband to look forward to on retiring she is going back to the centre — as a voluntary helper. And the voluntary helper she replaces is Mrs Beryl Morgan who she picked as her ideal successor.



● KATHLEEN Jones, Barrow's "Fairy Godmother," with some of the handicapped children she has devoted her life to at the Hawcoat Lane Centre.

Picture by North-Western Evening Mail

## £50,000 for Chandler's Ford centre

THE £50,000 campaign to open a day centre at Chandlers Ford in Hampshire came to a successful conclusion before the TV cameras when the cheque was handed over by the Southampton and District Spastics Society.

The Hexagon centre will take 120 severely handicapped people living within a 15 mile range of Chandlers Ford and is to be run by Hampshire County Council.

There is a work centre to promote training in productive work and an educational centre designed to help disabled school leavers in skills, including office work, domestic self-help and craft activities.

## After the first big success

# Will the Telethon be the new view on fund raising?

THAMES Television was elated, Rolf Harris, Jimmy Young and Joan Shenton were exhausted, and the telephones engaged after the first-ever British Telethon.

A Telethon is a fund-raising technique widely practised in America where during a marathon TV programme, viewers are encouraged to phone in donations to worthy causes by entertainers who give their services free.

In the end Thames could not estimate how many big names gave their support—there were just too many. In addition to a link-up with the States for an exhortation to give, from Eltham-born Bob Hope, there was a constant flow of just about everyone in British entertainment performing on screen or else answering the phone calls from viewers.

Nine hundred volunteers working in shifts answered the 240 lines put in by the Post Office, which promised to match each call with a 3p donation, but within a very short time it became obvious that these were just too few.

Frustrated donors, puzzled by the continuous engaged signal from the Telethon numbers, resorted to ringing the operator on 100 for help, until that number, too, became jammed.

The show itself opened at 7 pm on October 2, running through to 3 am and then again on the 3rd from 4 pm to 8 pm with an audience, Thames estimated at its peak, of three million.

Along with the wise-cracking joke routines, songs and such like, they saw moving films of handicapped and underprivileged children.

One of the first to be shown was Caroline, who is not in fact handicapped, but might have been, a survivor of twins whose brother had died.

Against the background of Caroline's first birthday party, her mother talked of her babies' premature birth and the lack of facilities which had meant a "Box and Cox" arrangement with the one piece of specialist equipment available. Caroline, being the stronger, survived, and she and mother were pictured on the front page of Spastics News earlier this year when her story was first told.

The biggest single donation was an anonymous one of £45,000, the youngest donor was a six-week-old girl who owed her life to specialist facilities and by the end of the programme £1.4m had been given.

The money has been put into a charitable trust registered as the Thames

Help Trust. Five advisory panels have been set up to deal with the applications which already run to over 1,000.

The five priority areas which will benefit from the money are perinatal mortality and the prevention of handicap; sick and handicapped children projects; schemes to help the under fives; the needs of "latch-key" children, and self-help units to benefit the handicapped in the community, all in the London and South-East England viewing area of Thames Television.

Joe Simpson, of Thames, is the Trust secretary, and he stressed that the money received was "new money."

"We could have gone to big firms and asked for contributions from their charity budgets which can be £20,000, but that would have been "sham money" since it was designated for charity anyway.

"Instead, firms were contributing from their marketing and advertising

budgets which can run to £2m.

"A fund-raiser of seven years' experience was one of those answering the telephone, and she, too, was quickly convinced that all this money was coming from people who are not committed to regular charity donations.

### 'Aware'

"Another thing we came across was the enormous public awareness produced by the programme of the needs of the handicapped and under-privileged. I answered the phone at 9.15 am on the Friday when the programme had been off the air for six hours, and wasn't due to start for another seven. It was an office worker who, with 14 of her colleagues, wanted to donate in the region of £5 each. For the first time in London everybody was talking, discussing and really caring about handicapped children's needs.

"Normally this kind of thing only happens when there is a tragedy."

So committed to the idea of help as well as cash were viewers that Thames was inundated with requests from the public to be able to assist with the next one—even if it was only to make the tea.

And there may be one next year networked throughout the country. In the meantime the five panels, each headed by a prestigious figure in the specific field, are working as fast as they can to process the requests.

Said Joe Simpson: "One of the problems when Government or Trusts are asked for money is, that it takes so long to process the request that by the time the grant comes through, inflation will have made a nonsense of the sum asked for."

All being well the first recipients of the viewers' generosity will be receiving aid before the end of the year.

## ... but little charity from critical trio

WHILE the Telethon had a warm and generous reception from the public, some TV critics were distinctly cool...

In the Daily Telegraph, Sean Day-Lewis wrote:

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind," declared the wise St Paul. He added with equal wisdom that "charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up." I use these words defensively and as a kind of justification at the unhelpful feeling of deep distaste which descended on me every time I switched

to Britain's first Telethon.

"The means doubtless justify the ends and all must be glad that over £1 million was raised for children's charities. But the prospect of so many show business luminaries and business managing directors advertising their very wonderful, kind and giving hearts was not inviting."

Russell Davis, at the end of a long review in the Sunday Times observed:

"Telethon finally ended on Friday. If it hadn't happened, £1.4m would have stayed, I suppose, in our pockets. Yet

the show must have cost another fortune to organise, and the sense of reckless prodigality is out of place. There was also the feeling, nearly articulated at one point by Rolf Harris, that "the cuts" had made this sort of money-drive urgently necessary. If the Labourthon from Blackpool (often equally bizarre but at its best more exciting) had fought through to some conclusions, something more general might have been done about this. Instead of knocking ourselves out for a drop-in-the-ocean like £600,000, why

not reorganise the ocean?"

Under the headline "Torture by Telethon," Clive James of The Observer began:

"Doubtless the handicapped children benefited materially from the abundant funds raised overnight by the Telethon, but one wonders if even they thought it was worth the spiritual cost. Here was a sample of what the Americanisation of television will do to our collective consciousness if we let it happen. There are less painful ways of committing national suicide."

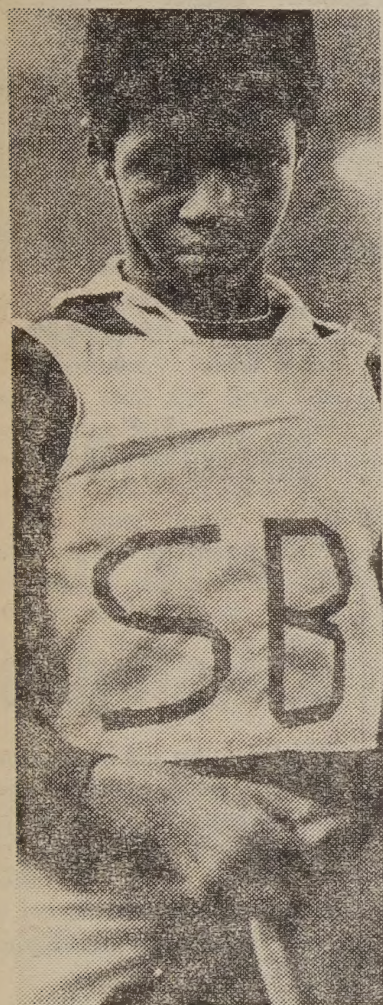


# A Royal appointment for gymkhana teams

## Determination takes riders to the Palace

BY ferry, car, coach and determination, contestants made their way from all over the British Isles to take part in the Society's National Gymkhana at Buckingham Palace.

They came, in the words of Ian Dawson-Shepherd, one of the Society's founders and a member of the Executive Council, who presented the prizes, because: "They have been practising all through the year and they need this competition to prove that the handicapped can do things thought to be impossible outside their range."



● **ANDRE Burnett** was one of the strong South Bucks team who usually carry off a trophy or two. Last year Andre's mother watched him ride, this year it was his father's turn. Andre, who is 14, enjoys riding so much the family often holiday in Norfolk, where he rides all the time.

"They jump their horses and race just as able-bodied riders do. The most important thing in the world for the handicapped person as an individual, and the attitude of the public in general, is that the handicapped person is as good as anybody else."

"And this gymkhana demonstrates the fact."

### Long trip

One of the most hazardous and expensive journeys was undertaken by the Isle of Wight team competing for the second year. Bed and breakfast alone cost £170. Their distinctive teamshirts decorated with an Isle of Wight logo won them the best turned out team award.

Many of the teams had included eye-catching and easily identifiable shirts in their wardrobes. From Salisbury was a team in bright scarlet with the words "Wilton Wizzers" emblazoned on the front. They were at the Royal Riding School — used by kind permission of the Queen — for the first time at the insistence of their team leader, Margaret Townsend.

### Holidays

Born blind, she has enjoyed three riding holidays at Peter Feldgate's school at Bradbourne, Sevenoaks. "I wanted us to take part last year but they wouldn't. This year I wasn't going to let them get away with it," she laughed.

"We ride on Lord Pembroke's estate but it's nice to take part in a competition. There are plenty for the able-bodied but this is the only one for the disabled."

"I can't see at all, but I am sensitive to atmosphere, and the atmosphere here is fabulous. It's so free and easy. I just hope that next year they will give rosettes,

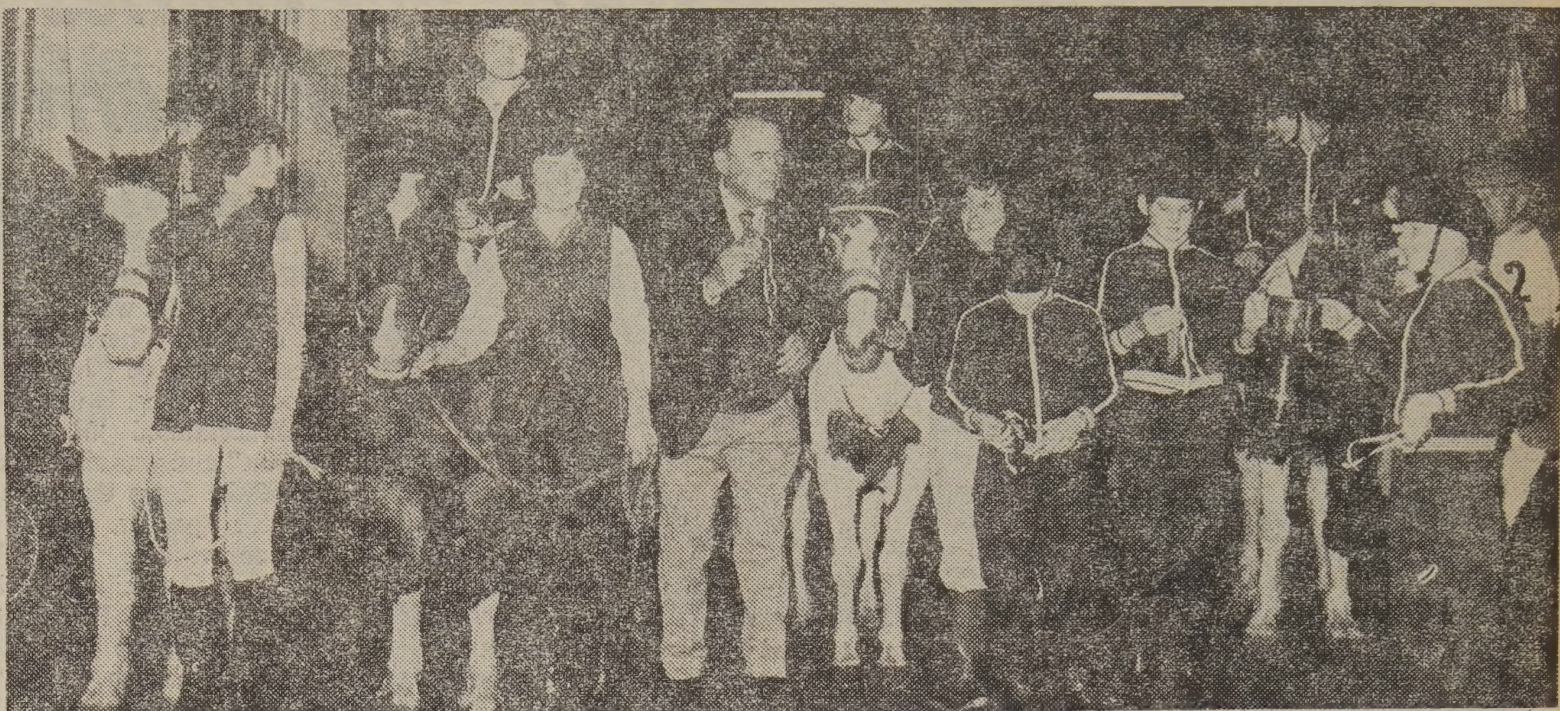
which show that riders have taken part in a gymkhana at the Palace."

The Society's Meldreth Manor school was also taking part for the first time with probably the most severely handicapped group there. The team are all multiple handicapped, non-communicating, and two with no hearing.

Instructress Royda Lewis explained: "It's a little difficult because they can't hear—it means we have to signal when to go, but they



● **ZOE Waddington**, aged 16, appraises the competition she is up against in the Royal Riding School. A pupil at the Society's Thomas Delarue School, she admitted to doing "Quite a bit of practice" before the event.

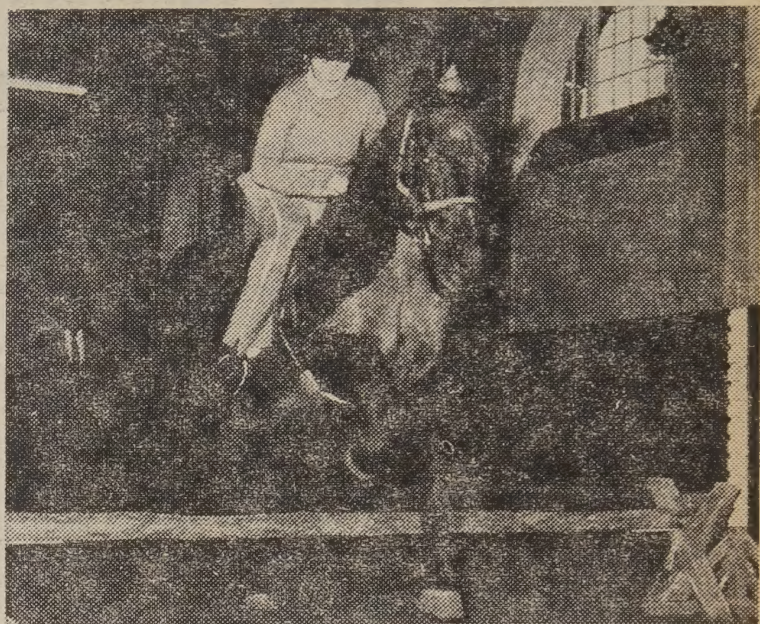


● **PENDOWER Hall School's** triumphant team with Ian Dawson Shepherd, who presented them with the Roy Monzani cup for winning the team event. The school also won the Pettitt trophy in the individual dressage class.

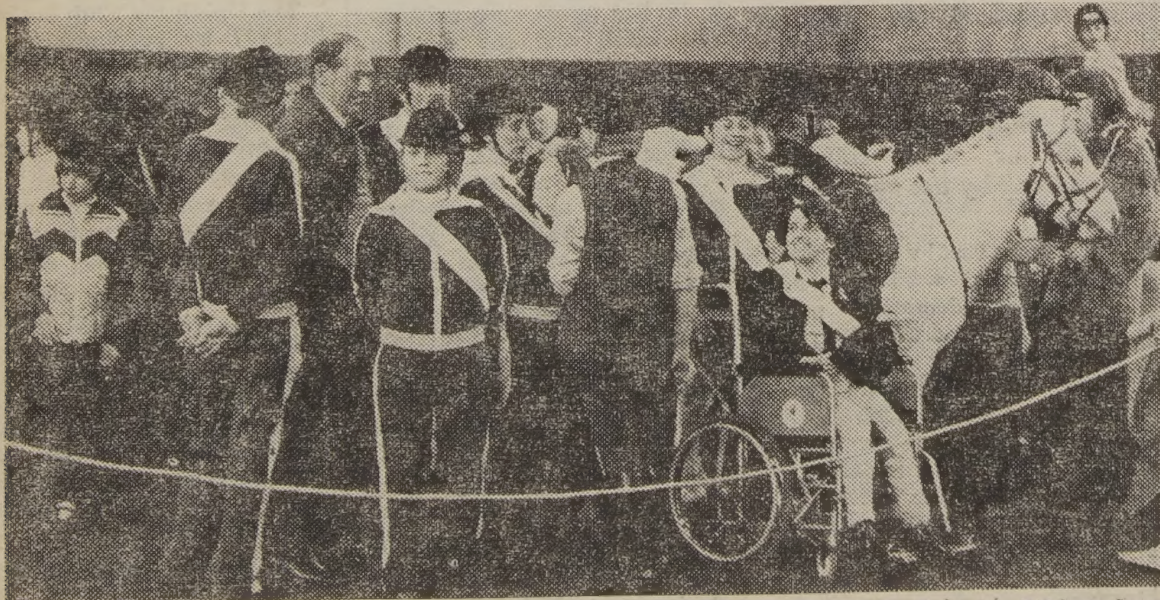
derive enormous social benefit from coming and taking part. And, of course, they enjoy all the horses and exciting sights."

Final results: Individual dressage, Pettitt Trophy, Pendower Hall School. Individual jumping, Orange Plaque, Cobbes Meadow. Best turned out team, Monzani Rose Bowl, Isle of Wight group. Team Trophy, Roy Monzani Cup, Pendower Hall School.

Fifteen teams in all took part and in next year's event, which will be the sixth, it is hoped to include teams from Europe to mark the International Year of Disabled People.



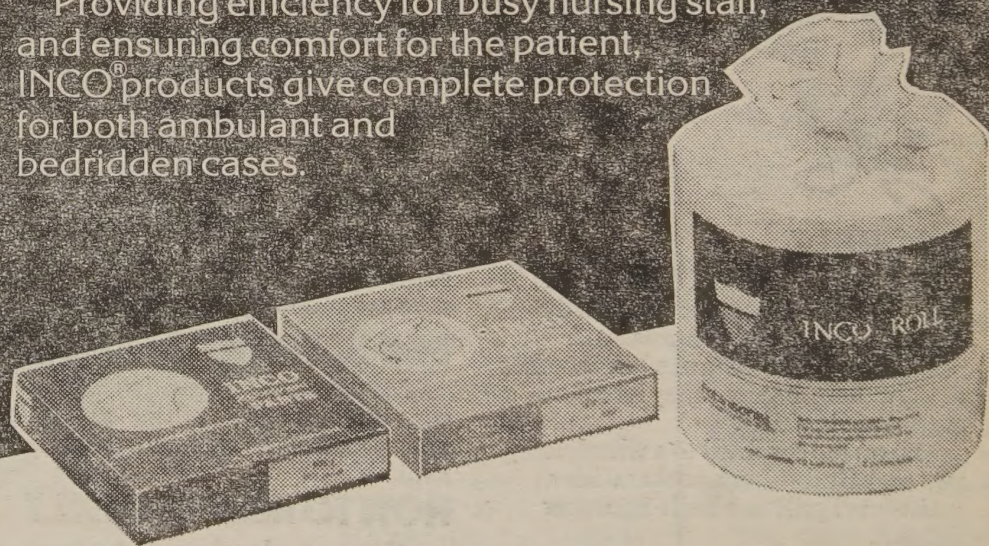
● **MRS Pat Putland**, of the Cobbes Meadow team, demonstrates her skill which won her the jumping trophy for the second year running.



● **TEAM leader Ann Trotman**, seated, encourages the rest of the Abbotslea Riders from Bristol as they wait their turn in the ring.

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# A local group 'worth its weight in gold'



THE rich harvest of a local group's efforts was toasted at the Canterbury and Kent Coast's AGM. Left to right: Dr James Appleyard, chairman Mr Nick Carter, deputy mayor Cllr Mrs Gwen Fortune, and Mrs Frieda Ellwood.

Picture by the Kentish Gazette

## Spastics News spotlights Canterbury and Kent Coast

LOCAL groups are often told that they are the grass roots of the Society, and at their AGM Canterbury and Kent Coast spastics group proved that those roots are not only planted well in rich soil but skilfully tended to produce a rich crop.

The group raised a record harvest: £6,413 — double the figure for the previous year. They did it by the traditional methods of coffee mornings and jumble sales, flag days and fairs.

And despite the recession, the Spastics Shop also increased its turnover to a handsome £1,729.

Already £3,250 has been donated by the group to a wide variety of centres for the disabled. Work should soon begin on converting a garage to a recreation yard at the Mary Sheridan children's centre which received £500, and the same amount went to the Society's Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge.

A further £500 went to the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospital towards equip-

ment for detecting foetal abnormalities. The Kent Mobile Physiotherapy Unit received £650, the Thanet Assessment Unit, Broadstairs, received £850 so that under-fives could be added to the present age range of five to 12 years being helped, and £250 was presented to the Society's Family Service and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square, London.

Chairman Mr Nick Carter was able to tell members that these had been just some of many gifts distributed throughout the year, which included a piano, a tricycle and an electric typewriter. The next task was to publicise 1981 as the Year of Disabled People.

## "Help yourself to the help you need"



British Gas offers a wide range of help to those who need it most—elderly and disabled people.

If you have a disability—or have friends or relatives in need of help, here are some of the ways in which we can make life easier for you.

### COOKING

For those with hand disabilities, many gas cookers can be fitted with special handles and controls. And remember, gas cookers need no matches to light them, because they have automatic ignition.

If you are confined to a wheelchair, you may find either a cooker with a waist-level grill or a built-in cooker helpful.

For those with failing sight or blindness, special braille thermostats are available for most gas cookers, together with braille cooking charts.

### GAS FIRES

Many gas fires are available with easily accessible top controls, to save bending, and most fires light automatically when turned on.

And for those people with hand disabilities, a special tap adaptor may be fitted to a number of fires.

### CENTRAL HEATING

Gas central heating needs very little attention and can be set to your own particular pattern of living. Time

controls and room thermostats help to save gas and keep running costs down.

### PRE-PAYMENT GAS METERS

Meters can be re-positioned at a convenient height for disabled people, and special extended handles are available.

### HOW TO HELP YOURSELF

Go to your local gas showroom. If you cannot go, contact the Home Service Adviser of your Gas Region, who will be happy to call on you at home and provide advice free of charge. (You'll find the address and telephone number in your local telephone directory under GAS).

### MORE HELP

For information about other ways in which we can help—with safety and economy hints, for example, or with a choice of ways in which you can spread the cost of your gas more evenly throughout the year—contact your local showroom.

BRITISH GAS



SN Nov

## Prince Charles at charity Premiere

FOR the first time ever an Australian film was chosen for a Royal Charity Premiere attended by the Prince of Wales. It was the much-acclaimed "Breaker Morant" and was shown in aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, and the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council of which Prince Charles is President.

Among those at the Classic Cinema, Haymarket, were the SOS President Lady Anne Tennant, Chairman Anthony Quayle, and many of its most hard working supporters, including Dickie Henderson, Sir John Mills, Dame Vera Lynn, Sylvia Syms, Imogen Hassall, Adrian Love amongst them.

The Australian High Commissioner Sir James Plimsoll, Edward Woodward, Jack Thompson, who won the Cannes Film Festival award for the best supporting actor for his part and co-stars Lewis Fitzgerald and Bryan Brown, were amongst those introduced to the Prince.

A party was held afterwards at Australia House and the event is expected to make about £10,000 for charity.

The film is set during the Boer War and revolves round one of the most controversial Court Martials in military history. An Australian Lieutenant orders the execution of a Boer captive after the murder of his unit's leader. The outcome of the court martial was to lead to the creation of an Australian folk hero.

## Here are the 1981 dates you must not miss..

THE Society's 1981 calendar has been specially produced to mark the International Year of Disabled People. It contains 12 delightful colour portraits of children from Craig-y-Parc, Meldreth Manor, Wilfred Pickles and Ingfield Manor Schools.

The photographer, John Young, has cleverly captured each child in a relaxed moment, showing the joy of childhood with the pathos of disability. On every page there is a short description of some aspect of the Society's work.

At £2 each, packed in cardboard containers for easy postage, the calendars would make ideal Christmas presents for those who love the charm and innocence of young children.

Order them from The Spastics Society, Publications Department, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. (Add 50p for postage and packing.)



ROBBIE Young and Ewan Cameron at the pedals of the Fun Machine in Park Crescent before their marathon cycle ride to raise money for the uphill Ski Club.

## The 'fun machine' way to ski slopes

TWO young ski instructors more at home on the slopes of Aviemore, covered an astounding 41.5 miles on a circuit that included London's Oxford Street to raise funds for the Uphill Ski Club.

Mounted not on skis but a "fun machine," Robbie Young and Ewan Cameron kept going for five hours with sponsors having to guess the number of miles covered.

Stars Organisation for Spastics' member, Adrian Love, happened to be passing on his way to the BBC and joined in the fun.

After the event more than 50 members of the club attended an AGM.

The Uphill Ski Club founded in 1977 by paediatrician Dr David Morris is now organising its fifth holiday, and will be going to the Italian resort of Aprica in March next year.

Already £10,000 of the £15,000 cost has been raised and there are still some vacancies for a week's stay at £115.

Rusty Wright, the club secretary says: "Ski-ing is very possible for very many spastic people. Not only is it a great sport but we have found that the confidence gained through participation is carried back into everyday life. Don't say you can't — give us a ring and find out more."

Rusty can be contacted at the Club, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ. Tel 01-387 9571.

## Society seeks those special children

CLOSING date for nominations for The Spastics Society's annual Achievement of the Year Award is Saturday, January 17, 1981, but entries will be welcomed from now onwards.

If you know of any handicapped child, between the ages of five and 16 years, whose courage and determination in the face of pain and adversity has left you breathless with admiration, the Society would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

The citation is for "the bravest or most outstanding effort or achievement in any field by children between the ages of five and 16 years who have been handicapped since birth or who suffered handicap by the age of five years."

Comparatively minor achievements which have nevertheless demanded great effort and determination, or disabilities that have been borne with courage and cheerfulness, stand as much chance of winning as more spectacular feats. Degree of handicap is always taken into account by the panel of judges so that all entrants compete on equal terms.

First prize is £250 plus a silver cup. Second prize is £50

and third prize is £25. All finalists also receive an inscribed medal. As well, all finalists and their escorts will be invited to attend a celebration lunch and the ensuing Award ceremony in London with all expenses paid.

Don't miss this chance to honour a brave child.

To make a nomination, please write to the Organiser, Mrs Nina Heycock, giving name and address, age and as much detail as possible of the background and achievements of the child nominated. Mrs Heycock's address is 35 Harrington Gardens, London SW7.

And remember — the closing date is January 17, 1981.

JOYCE Cook has died at her home in Calne, Somerset. She was 19 and attended the Society's Arter Centre in Salisbury.



**The Spastics Society is in the red to the tune of £823,000 - the highest deficit in its history - so the message from the AGM to the Government was ...**

# AGM REPORT

## 'Grant tax relief on donations and save us from VAT'

A STRONG plea to the Government to aid The Spastics Society's serious financial position — an £823,000 deficit, the highest in the Society's history — by allowing all charitable donations to be deductible for tax purposes was made by Mrs Joyce Smith, Chairman of the Society, at the AGM in London on October 18.

Mrs Smith said that such deductions would be a logical step since, with the sole exception of Eire, all other Common Market countries had this arrangement. Another way would be to grant relief from VAT, which affects so many of the services the Society provides, and was an added burden, increasing the cost of caring for badly handicapped children and adults in its 60 schools, centres and other units.

The Government had praised the work of voluntary bodies and had stated that such organisations should play an even greater role in the future, plugging the gaps that were being left by cuts in the welfare services at every level.

"I would like to tell the Government," said Mrs Smith, "that the time has now come when they must do more than pay lip service to Britain's charities. They must take urgent action now to aid the flow of funds into charitable coffers or they must accept responsibility for, and spend more money on, the handicapped themselves."

"They cannot have it both ways. We need their answer on this matter urgently."

### Busy year

Mrs Smith began her report by saying that the past year had probably been the most eventful in the Society's history.

"We have been going through a difficult phase, but the Society has a proud history and I am in no doubt that it has a brighter future ahead."

Speaking of the "Save a Baby" campaign, she said it has been so instrumental in alerting politicians, medical and paramedical professions, the public and the media, to the terrible toll of death and needless handicap amongst Britain's babies.

"More than that, it has started a ball rolling which cannot now be stopped. Indeed that was our intention since obviously we could not continue to carry for ever the burden of the desperately important issues involved," she said. The Society was still dedicated to the cause of "Save a Baby" and was continuing to give such support as means allow.

"For instance, evidence prepared by Society staff and submitted in both oral and written form to the House of Commons Social Services

"If we achieve this, it will be a milestone in our work because better facilities for mothers and babies, more intensive care facilities, a vigorous health campaign directed at pregnant women in all social classes will surely lead to fewer babies being born unnecessarily handicapped."

The Society's initiatives to help pregnant working women, she said, so impressed MP's that a clause was set down to the Employment Bill to ensure that such women should not lose wages through attendance at antenatal clinics. This has received support from all parties and was backed by the trades unions, a number of enlightened managements and members of the medical profession.

The Society had also con-



tinued to alert the public about the acute shortage of intensive care units for newborn babies which exists in many parts of the country.

Mrs Smith went on:

"Another important area in which we have campaigned is that of health education for all women of child bearing age. We have set up a mobile exhibition which has toured areas with a high perinatal mortality rate to help bring the facts to women and to schoolgirls who will be the mothers of the future."

"We have also made two films which have been widely praised, which show the need for new and more enlightened attitudes to be displayed

● CHAIRMAN Mrs Joyce Smith relaxes during the lunchtime break with Mr Anthony Quayle, Chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, and Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for the Disabled.

towards women who are going through the wonderful business of bringing a new life into the world.

"As a result — and remember that rolling ball I mentioned earlier — the press, radio and television have continued to publish the message that we want to get home — 'Save a Baby from being born spastic.'"

"However, we are not only concerned with the nation's future but with its present as well, and that means of course that we must look at our work

for those who are already handicapped, and in need of, as well as deserving of, so much practical help. And here the Society's local groups are in the vanguard, with their many services and commitments to cerebral palsied people living locally in their own areas."

"The community as a whole owes an enormous debt to those devoted volunteers who give so much of their spare time, their energy and prac-

Continued on Page 6

## Spelling out the financial facts



● MR William Burn is heard in sombre mood by the platform as he delivers the Hon Treasurer's report. From left to right are Mr William Huddleston, Dr Millicent Regan, Miss Valerie Lang, Mr Peter Rigby, Mr Iowerth Thomas, Mr Alex Moira and Mr Ian Dawson-Shepherd.

intervening period have enabled us to reduce the 1980/81 deficit from £1,900,000 to about £450,000."

This was achieved in a progressively hostile inflationary climate, said Mr Burn, and with salary awards made by Professor Clegg and others, the Society's total salary bill has still increased from below £9,000,000 in 1979/80 to £10,660,000 for 1980/81 although now fewer staff were employed.

It was vital that fundraising activities produce a much higher net annual income of a regular nature for the Society, said Mr Burn. No effort should be spared to raise income by a margin greater than that of the rate of inflation, so that there was a real benefit to the Society. The income must be used to improve the quality of existing services and to extend into new fields of a pioneering nature, which has been the greatest strength of the Society since its earliest days.

"In order to achieve these aims, we must ensure that our administration is run more efficiently and as economically as possible. We must concurrently eliminate any services

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## 'Drastic action, but an inevitable deficit next year too'

THE Society's serious financial position was spelt out in gloomy detail by Mr William A. Burn in his statement as Hon Treasurer. He told the AGM that deficits in recent years, including that of £823,000 — the highest in the Society's history — for the year under review, amounted to more than £2,600,000 on April 5, 1980.

Despite drastic steps to reduce expenses and increase income, there would inevitably be a further deficit in 1980/81.

VAT remained an in-

tolerable burden, he said, and in the past five years irrecoverable VAT had cost the Society £550,000. In 1980/81 the first year during which the higher rate of 15 per cent applies throughout, the cost to the

Society will be at least £220,000.

Mr Burn said it was a year ago, with inflationary pressures mounting rapidly, that the Executive Council estimated that the deficit for 1980/81 would be £1,900,000 with further increases thereafter.

"Very much more needed to be done urgently to raise income and reduce expenditure, especially expenditure which was not directly and productively incurred in services to spastic persons. The positive steps we have taken as a Council in the

## Thanks from the Chairman

THE AGM is the appropriate time for the Society's Chairman to express special thanks to individuals and organisations. Among the recipients mentioned in Mrs Joyce Smith's speech were:

The Society's Patron, HRH the Duchess of Kent — "for the continuing interest she shows in our work."

Top Ten Promotions, "for their continued and vital support. They, like the Society, are suffering setbacks and considerable problems, but they are doing their utmost to surmount these and are making intense efforts during this difficult time to recruit new members for the Spastics Pool."

The Stars Organisation for Spastics, which "continues to maintain its high standard of provision in financing both residential and holiday facilities. They, also, are finding the present times difficult, but as always their love and caring for others seems to shine through."

The Society's staff, "It has been a disturbing and worrying period for them all: nevertheless, they have endured many discomforts and problems uncomplainingly and with loyalty. I hope that the coming year will be a happier one for them all."

Mr James Loring, who was Director of the Society until March, and Mr Dorian Belton, who resigned as Chairman during the year under review.



# AGM REPORT

Continued from Page 5

tical concern towards helping to ensure that the terrible consequences of severe handicap are lessened, and that children and adults are given some opportunity to live as normal a life as possible.

"I am grateful to every volunteer working to sustain the Groups and their aims and objectives, and I say that from the heart, since as Chairman of a local group I am very well aware of the problem that you face. Indeed, I think it is time that the Society freely acknowledged that it could not exist in any form or extend the influence it does without you — the troops in the field — and the support and help you give to the national body."

Mrs Smith said that she hoped groups will spend much of their energies in the coming year to developing close contacts with local authorities in their areas. If they establish good relationships with councillors and other officials in decision-making positions, they can do much to influence the ways in which authorities allocate their resources. It was essential that local groups do their utmost to bring pressure to bear so that the disabled and their needs are put on the very top of the priority lists of local authorities.

Next year sees the landmark of the International Year of Disabled People, said Mrs Smith, who went on: "I say 'landmark' because many of us here today will recall the days when voluntary bodies were trying to get the message across that handicapped people have as many needs and rights as the able-bodied. We welcome the fact that the United Nations has, by designating the Year, endorsed these views."

"However, the Year will be meaningless unless it is made a vehicle for some real improvements in the lives of disabled men, women and children everywhere. But at this time of harsh economic problems, when those who fight for the handicapped are struggling to prevent cutbacks in what has already been won, how can this be accomplished?"

After making her plea for the Government to grant tax relief for charities (see page 5) Mrs Smith declared:

"We must also continue to fight to prevent that great milestone, The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, from being hacked away from under our feet. The concessions won for disabled people in this declaration of their rights were fought for hard and long, and we are certainly not going to sit back meekly and see retrograde steps being taken. It was very moving early this year to see the very genuine rally of handicapped people themselves, who travelled to London to protest that their Act was being threatened. They came from all over the country in their wheelchairs — on crutches — and carrying the white stick that proclaims blindness, to express their feelings to the Government, quite spontaneously."

"In this respect one senses a failure among the decision-makers of successive governments, to really appreciate the very special problems that disabled people have, and in

## 'Grant tax relief'

particular the very hard financial problems they are facing today, as costs rocket but incomes do not. The Spastics Society report 'Living from day to day' outlined some of these hardships.

"Cutting back on those facilities which enable people who are handicapped to continue living in the community is very short-sighted policy. Without these facilities, many would be unwillingly forced to seek residential care at far, far greater cost to the nation."

"When I tell you that the Society has calculated that the minimum cost of just one full adult life, severely handicapped at birth, is at least £300,000 you will see at once what a very poor way of saving money is the cutting back of services to handicapped people, struggling so manfully to be self-supporting."

"Everything that we can do to help people to stay in the community and to attain maximum independence should be encouraged."

The need for integration and independence for the handicapped were major themes of Mrs Smith's AGM speech. She said:

"To love and to cherish a handicapped child involves, on the part of the parents, a saintly degree of fortitude and sacrifice. I am very conscious that parents worry themselves constantly with the nagging fear about how their handicapped children are going to manage when they themselves are gone. Yet when they are able, with the proper help and back-up services and aids and appliances, to see how well even severely handicapped people can manage to be independent, it would go a long way towards lessening those fears."

Mrs Smith referred to the serious effects that inflation has had on the Society, "making our task even more difficult," and a VAT rate of 15 per cent has substantially increased ever rising costs. "All this, coupled with other adverse factors, has meant that we have had to trim our sails drastically, while trying our utmost to see that the handicapped people in our care are affected as little as possible."

"We must look towards the future with confidence, though with sound realism that maintaining the services we at present offer will be a hard struggle, and will demand even more energy and work from us all. We must carry on with faith that our cause is a just one, and hope that the public support for our work will continue and increase in spite of everything."

# They travel from all over the year, but on the evening Delegates get together



MR Timothy Yeo, Director; Mrs Di Yeo; Miss Charmian Mould, senior regional officer (West); Mr J. Shedd, Cornish Spastics Society.



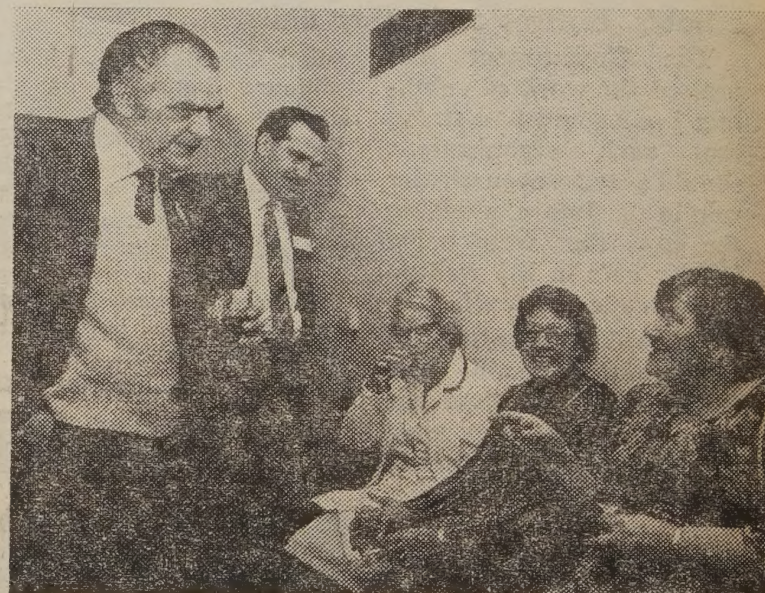
MR I. M. Thomas, Executive Council; Mrs Eileen Milnes, Executive Council; Mr Frits Janssen, Acting Director of Finance.



MR J. Stephens, South East Surrey Spastics Group; Miss C. Harrison, appeals officer; Mr and Mrs C. Wood, East Staffordshire Spastics Society.



MR R. Clapp, Bristol Spastics Association; Mr P. Dyer, Head of Employment; Mr T. G. John, Swansea and District Spastics Association; Mrs Joyce Smith, Chairman; Mr W. A. Burn, Vice-Chairman.



MR J. F. Thompson, Ryedale Spastics and Disabled Persons Society; Mr and Mrs C. R. Edwards, Rawmarsh Spastics Society; Mrs K. C. Birkenshaw, Rawmarsh Society; Mrs S. Dewson, Scunthorpe and District Society.



MR M. Oldham, senior regional officer (Wales); Mrs Calder, Colwyn Bay and District Group; Miss R. Osborne and Mrs A. Endacott, Colwyn Bay group.

## The story of the Stars - by Anthony Quayle

IN a warm, witty and polished performance, Anthony Quayle delivered his speech in his role of Chairman of The Stars Organisation for Spastics to an enraptured audience.

He confessed that he had not known what to talk about until the Society's Chairman, Joyce Smith, suggested he talked about the SOS.

"I have been an actor all my life, more than 50

years and Chairman for just 18 months so it is only now that I am beginning to know what makes the SOS tick. They are strange creatures in the SOS. All of them performers of some sort. Singers, musicians, comedians, a distinguished circus clown, magicians — anything that gets up on its back legs and performs qualifies."

And he outlined how a number of them who had been willingly working for

charity 25 years ago, had been encouraged by the then Director of the Society the late Dr Stephens to not only fund-raise, but become actively involved by funding and running a centre of their own.

### The first

Colwall Court, the holiday hotel for children at Bexhill, was the first venture, followed by Wakes

Hall in Essex, and Good Neighbours House in Camberwell.

He went on: "The annual general meeting of the SOS is a crazy affair — you'll hear 'hello darling, good to see you' simply because it is a theatrical gathering."

"But this is deceptive. Performers by definition have to be sensitive. Most of us are concerned to feel what it is like to be someone else, therefore we have great sensitivity and feeling

for anybody who is handicapped. Actors, however famous or feted, belong to a profession which is outside social limits despite honours such as knight-hoods or peerages that they receive. Because the world treats us as trivial and frivolous we are keen to show that, though light-hearted, we are NOT trivial and frivolous, and we have a fierce pride in the SOS, in what we do."

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country for the most vital day in the Society's  
before the meeting there is a chance to relax

# AGM REPORT

## mer at the pre-ACGM reception



MS B. Park, Cumbria Spastics Society; Mr D. Penington, Rhuddlan Borough and District Group; Mrs T. Greaves, Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development.



MR G. Wyman, Letchworth Spastics Society; Mr C. R. Sharp, Cheltenham and District Spastics Association; Mr D. Ashcroft, Executive Council member.



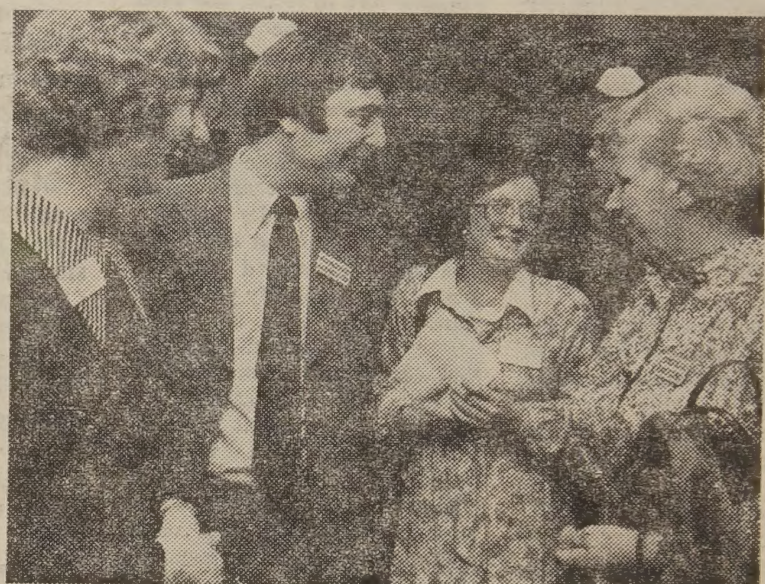
MR and Mrs G. O. Williams. Mrs Clarrie Williams is a member of the Executive Council.



MRS M. Gallagher and Mr W. Younger, of Blackburn and District Spastics group; Mr A. M. Frank, Assistant Director (Regions); Mr I. D. Dawson-Shepherd, Executive Council member.



MR Alex Moira, a Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society; Mr and Mrs G. Marshall, Beaumont College; Mrs Di Yeo.



MRS Irene Chappell, Portsmouth and District Spastics Society; Mr H. G. Chappell, Executive Council; Miss A. Williams, committee secretary; Mrs Joyce Smith, Chairman.



MRS G. Maden, Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society; Mrs D. Beaumont and Mrs Hodges, Watford and District Group; Mr P. Maden, Ipswich group.



MRS M. Hoyle, Blackpool and Fylde group; Mrs R. Anderson, Blackpool and Fylde; Mrs E. Thomas and Mrs J. Williams, Urmston and District group.



MR W. A. Burn, Vice-Chairman; Mr and Mrs C. W. Sterry, Gloucester and District Spastics Association.



MRS H. Sharp, Cheltenham and District Spastics Association; Mrs L. Fairhurst and Miss P. J. E. Smith, Salisbury District Spastics Association; Mr C. R. Sharp, Cheltenham group.



MR Jan Hildreth, Finance Committee (and now Executive Council); Mrs M. J. Thorp, Durham County Spastics Society; Mr W. Huddleston, Executive Council; Mr and Mrs G. Burn, Mrs M. Burn.



MISS J. Lonnon, Derby and District Society; Mr K. O. Coulbeck, South Humberside Society; Mr T. G. John, Swansea and District Association; Mrs D. Cottle, Cardiff and District Association.



# AGM REPORT

## Financial facts and figures

Continued from Page 5

which are no longer important because of changing times and circumstances, and we must make every effort to persuade other organisations to perform for us many services of a routine nature. Above all, we must make absolutely sure that we get value for money in all our activities, so that our limited resources are used in the best interests of spastic persons.

"The country, the Government or anybody else does not owe us a living and charities have to compete and to fight hard in the community for their beliefs, their ideals, their activities and the necessary funds."

The most recent Finance Act had made some worthwhile concessions, said Mr Burn, by shortening the minimum period for a deed of covenant from seven years to four years, and by allowing more tax relief on covenants to higher rate taxpayers. It also raised the ceiling for tax exemption on Capital Transfers to charities on, or shortly before, death, and he declared that "we must vigorously market our ideas to ensure that these changes in legislation benefit us substantially. We must convince covenantors, donors and testators that our financial needs are immense and that their gifts will be spent productively, by a live, energetic and caring Society."

Mr Burn said that the UK was "still trailing badly" compared with most European and other advanced countries by not introducing the tax deductible system which allows donors tax relief on single or non-recurring charitable donations which are different from annual payments under deeds of covenant.

"Value Added Tax remains an intolerable burden on charities, which I cannot believe it was designed to do when the legislation was first enacted. In the past five years irrecoverable VAT has cost our Society £550,000. In 1980/81, the first year during which the higher rate of 15 per cent applies throughout, the cost to us will be at least £220,000."

"This is a sum of money which we have to raise with relentless effort and persuasion, simply to hand it over to the Customs and Excise authorities."

"It will make no real difference to the Government's finances, but it will hit the Society and other national charities very hard indeed. It will subtract from the services we are providing, which in any case are the legal and moral responsibility of local authorities, Regional Hospital Boards or the Central Government itself."

"I have therefore, with the agreement of the Chairman

and the full support of seven other leading national charities, written yesterday to the Chancellor of the Exchequer emphasising this problem of VAT and also drawing his attention to other fiscal matters which place an unfair burden on charities generally. (See story on page 1.)

Mr Burn went on:

"The Spastics Pool has provided a most important source of our voluntary income since its inception in 1957. It was a phenomenal success financially during its early years. Donations were modest and uncertain in the first few weeks and months of 1957, but within seven years the Society received a net income from the Pools of £2,300,000, the peak year in 1963/64. In order to emphasise the real value of that amount of money, let me remind you that the retail price index has risen fivefold during the last 16 years. In today's money, therefore, that peak annual income of £2,300,000 would be equivalent to more than £11,000,000 today."

"To our dismay, in the Finance Act of 1964, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer amended the relevant tax laws, so that a much larger percentage of our Pools income went to the Exchequer in Pools Betting Duty. The Spastics Pool inevitably became much less attractive and its membership, its income and charitable donations decreased significantly and relentlessly year after year."

"Our total income from the Spastics Pool amounted last year to only £1,100,000. This is still a significant sum of money for which we are indeed grateful to Top Ten Promotions Ltd; but it is less than one-tenth in real value compared with the corresponding amount in 1963/64. Moreover, at that time the Spastics Pool reached a peak membership of 6,700,000, whereas today it is down to 850,000. The loss to the Society in financial and in many other ways has been truly immense. "Yet even our present modest Pools income has been under constant threat for the last few years, with the Pools Competition Act of 1971 only being renewed on a temporary basis from year to year."

"Why are Governments so shortsighted? Why must they deprive charities like ours of income which we spend on the urgent needs, and to alleviate the many hardships of handicapped persons?"

He appealed: "Let the Pools Competition Act of 1971 be incorporated into permanent legislation, and let the Government, with the charitable movement, seek ways of working more closely together in partnership to solve our financial problems, instead of magnifying them."



● SMILES from the five successful Executive Council candidates. To comply with the feeling of the overwhelming majority of the delegates it was agreed at the AGM to announce the number of votes cast for each candidate. Newcomer to the Council is Jan Hildreth who gained 72, top scorer with 103 was Eileen Milnes. Mrs Carrie Williams received 77, Mr William Burn 93, and Mr Derek Ashcroft 92 (pictured left to right).

## Who's who in the AGM elections

MRS Joyce Smith, the first woman Chairman of The Spastics Society, was re-elected Chairman.

Mrs Smith has been a member of the Executive Council of the Society since 1971. She is a JP and Chairman of the Salisbury and District Spastics Association, and a well-known figure in the district for her many voluntary activities.

Mr William A. Burn, who was Hon Treasurer, was re-elected to the Executive Council and also appointed Joint Vice-Chairman.

Previously he was Hon Treasurer from 1960 until becoming Chairman in 1966, a post he held until 1973. He is an ex-officio member of all committees of the Society and is a trustee of the Sembal Trust,

Friends of Spastics League, and the Charity Cards Trust.

He is the parent of a spastic son.

Mr Alex Moira, a founder - member of the Society, was re-elected joint Vice-Chairman.

He has been a member of the executive body of the Society since its formation in 1952. He has been a Vice-Chairman of the Society since 1960 and was Hon Treasurer from 1952-60.

Mr Moira is also Chairman of the Habinteg Housing Association concerned with integrating handicapped people into able-bodied housing estates, and is a member

of the International Cerebral Palsy Society.

Mr Moira has a spastic daughter.

Mr William Huddleston was appointed Hon Treasurer.

He is also a member of the Group Executive and Fund Raising Committee, and group representative on the Regional Co-ordinating Committee. He is Chairman of the Work and Welfare Centre Management Committee of Cleveland Spastics Society.

Mr Huddleston has a spastic child.

Re-elected to the Executive Council (in addition to Mr Burn) were:

Mr Derek Ashcroft, who has been a member of the Society's Executive Council

and of The Resources Committee for the last six years. He has been a member of the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Group for 21 years. He is Vice-Chairman of the South East Regional Committee, and a member of the Garwood Hotel's Management Committee at Bognor Regis.

His particular interest lies in the field of education and in communication between authorities and parents.

Mrs Eileen Milnes, who has a 24-year-old spastic daughter, has been a member of the Executive Council since 1977. She is concerned with the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society, on whose management committee she has served.

She is also a member of the Working Party on Transport for the Disabled in Greater Manchester and has served on the Greater Manchester Advisory Council for Cerebral Palsy.

Mrs Carrie Williams, founder and Chairman of the Monmouthshire Spastics Society, has been a member of the Executive Council since 1973.

She is also a member of the Wales Regional Committee, trustee of Monmouthshire Spastics Society Work Centre, a member of Gwent Standing Conference of Voluntary Welfare Organisations general purposes committee, past committee member of Hospital League of Friends, and now a member of the committee concerned with a special swimming pool for handicapped people.

Mrs Williams is Vice-President of the Torfaen PHAB Club, a member of Gwent Area Health Authority sub-committee, a member of the Wales Council for the Disabled sub-committee. She is the parent of a spastic son.

Newly elected to the Executive Council was Mr Jan Hildreth, who was Director-General of the Institute of Directors from 1975-8.

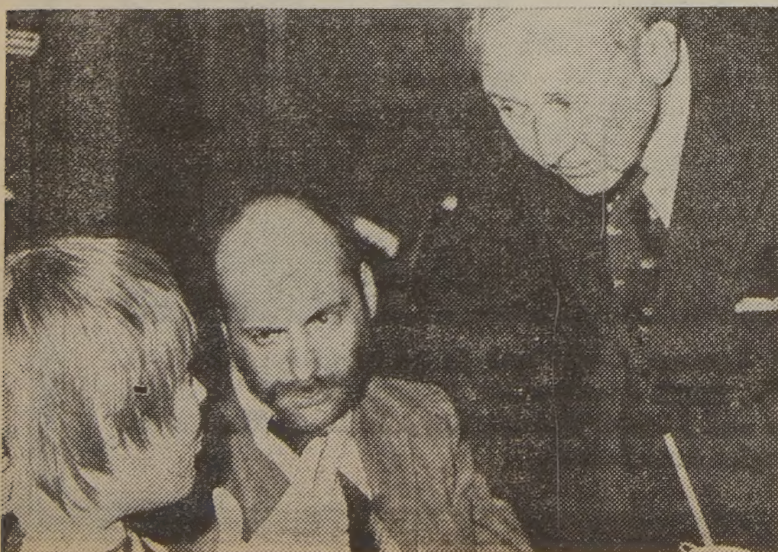
He has been a member of The Spastics Society's Finance Committee since January 1980 and is concerned in the running of "Contact a Family" which aims to bring families with a handicapped child together for mutual support.

Mr Hildreth has a spastic son, now aged 21, who was educated at St Margaret's School, Croydon, and at The Spastics Society's Thomas De-la-rue School, Tonbridge, Kent.



● STUDIES in AGM concentration from Vice-Chairman Mr Alex Moira and Chairman Mrs Joyce Smith.

## The story of the Stars...



Continued from Page 6

He paid tributes to the stalwarts who would always give their time when asked, and made special mention of Dickie Henderson. "I say—'Dickie you've got to be there' and he will be—even if he has to fly the Atlantic." It was Dickie's

● ALICE Moira and Ian Kettle had travelled down from Nottingham for the AGM and during the lunchbreak there was time to chat to Anthony Quayle.

persistence that brought about the tremendously successful Bob Hope Golf Classic which has given SOS funds a major boost.

"We are very proud to work for and on behalf of The Spastics Society and passionately proud of the SOS beaver away. Life is an intense battle but even during the war I have never fought in better company than the one I'm in now and I'm grateful to you—the handicapped—for giving us a chance to help."

IT was Mr Alec Moira, a Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society and one of its four founder members, who proposed the formal vote of thanks to the AGM speakers, Mr Reg Prentice, MP, Minister for the Disabled, and Stars Organisation for Spastics' Chairman, Mr Anthony Quayle.

He graciously thanked Mr Prentice for his speech, but did hope that his Government's slowdown in public expenditure "will be held off the interests of the handicapped."

In thanking Mr Quayle, Mr Moira paid tribute to the SOS which not only did a "remarkable job" as an organisation, but brought "enormous publicity" to the cause of the handicapped.

Mr Prentice also praised Mr Quayle's speech when he got up to deliver his own, and in one of the few moments of light relief in a day of weighty business, mentioned one of the actor's famous films which is, perhaps, something of a favourite with the TV programme planners! Like the rest of the British public, he said, he was a compulsive viewer of "The Guns of Navarone" and every time he sat there clutching his chair wondering which side would win in the end...



Continued from Page 1

through official channels for the disabled, sick and other vulnerable groups. No country would ever do enough to meet all human needs. There will always be a need for voluntary effort, and voluntary bodies will always do some things better than the State."

People wished to live in a caring society, said Mr Prentice, but not in a country in which the State was all-powerful, because that brought a threat to freedom.

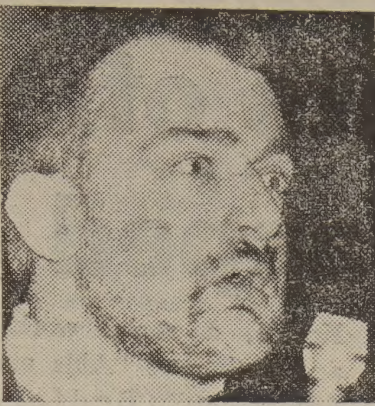
As to Government cuts, Mr Prentice said he made no apology for them and wished to take the opportunity to say that he believed it was right to slow down on the massive expansion of public spending created by all parties. Such expenditure had become counter productive.

The social security budget was running at £20 billion a year and had expanded by over 50 per cent in real terms in the last 10 years, while in the same period the gross national product had only risen by 15 per cent. Most benefits had been going up faster than the rate of inflation, and the total effect has been debilitating on the whole of society. Because of consequent inflation, the hardest hit were the people struggling to make ends meet on State benefits so in an effort to help them, we had been undermining them.

With the present financial strait-jacket of cash limits, some "distasteful" cuts had had to be made, but "we have been able to preserve a great deal of the work of the DHSS and protect it from cuts and in some cases even achieved modest increases."

While the Minister had little good news for the AGM, he certainly had a great deal to say about the good work of the Society. For instance, his words on the "Save a Baby" campaign, which he declared had achieved a "strong impact" on Parliament and was impressive because it came from an organisation which had been working in the field for some time. So different

from the "Rent a Mob" type of campaign to which politicians were subjected.



● **CHRISTOPHER Waters** of Maidstone is an AGM regular and is always first on his feet when questions and comments are asked for. Here he suggests that the Society is top heavy in assets which could be sold off to help the financial situation. Mr William Burn replied that the Society had sold off those assets which were not appropriate to the organisation.



● **RADAR's Director George Wilson** asked the Minister if he would deny rumours that his department planned to reduce information collected on disabled people and services provided for them.

Mr Prentice told him no decision had been made but the department was trying to reduce red tape.



● **GETTING to know you** — Tim Yeo chats to one of the Society's longest serving staff members, Merle Davies, while his wife Di meets regional officer Sue Smith.

## After the AGM we asked... Well, what did you think of it?



**LILIAN Hodges** from Harrow Weald was emphatic: "It has been an excellent AGM—I thought it was the best in years. I no longer work for just one group, instead I work independently, and support several now that my grandson, Neil, has left the Watford Centre and gone to Craig-y-Parc. I know a lot of parents were very interested in the points brought up about finance and the problems children face after school."



**LILIAN Page** is the deputy payroll officer at the Society's headquarters, and part of her job at the AGM was to help scrutinise votes in the Executive Council elections. Because of this duty she missed some of the morning's session but what she heard was "very interesting, and I think I enjoyed the meeting more than ever this year."

"The AGM brings staff and group members together in closer understanding," she said.



**RUTH Allen** was attending her first AGM with her mother who is secretary of the Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society. She found: "The afternoon session more constructive than this morning's one, because people from the body of the hall could participate in a way which is impossible during the formal part of the meeting."

"I'm a civilian working for the Metropolitan Police Force and very slightly cerebral palsied. I was extremely interested to hear Reg Prentice. I formed the opinion that he was a good man for the job, he didn't shirk the problems and gave one a strong feeling that our cause comes before others."



**ELAINE Roberts**, of the Carmarthen Spastic and Disabled Persons Society, thought the AGM was "very good, very invigorating," and she had high praise for Chairman, Joyce Smith, who is "very nice" and as Chairman "is going from strength to strength."

"She certainly ran the meeting very well, and it was amazing how much ground was covered in the day. I particularly liked the open discussion in the afternoon."



**JESSICA Smith**, secretary of the South Bucks Group, said: "This has been a very outspoken AGM, which is all to the good. I particularly enjoyed the speeches by Anthony Quayle and Reg Prentice. The Minister made promises seem, if not definite at least in the air. This was very encouraging for the number of disabled people present, because it showed that more and more interest is being taken in the problems they face."



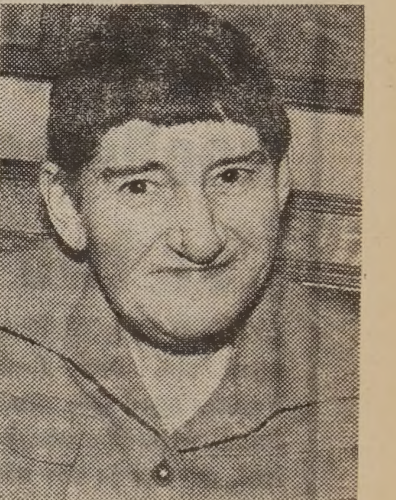
**ROSEMARY Marshall** was attending the AGM with her fiancé Richard Gamble, social secretary of the Basingstoke and District Spastics Society. He has Frederick's Ataxia and so they stayed the previous night at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in London. She said: "I came last year as well. I sat through this morning's session and to be honest it didn't strike me as being very different from last year's."

"Instead of attending the afternoon business I went shopping in Oxford Street."

## AGM REPORT



**DENISE Pell**, Chairman of Doncaster and District Spastics Society, said: "The Chairman's opening speech was very good, and so was the address by Anthony Quayle — very interesting. My impression is that it was a very well organised AGM, and oh yes, it was a very nice buffet lunch!"



**JOYCE Richards** of the South London Spastics Group found the AGM "very interesting" and was glad she had attended. High spot of the day for her was the speech by Anthony Quayle — "so entertaining and sincere."



**LEONARD Hodges** from Harrow Weald, Middlesex, summed the AGM up as "a very good meeting." He especially liked the open discussion in the afternoon on the future of the Society and its work. "That was very democratic. We have gone away before with the feeling that we hadn't had the chance to speak, but this time everybody had a chance."

"I liked the way the Chairman handled the meeting — very straightforward, and I thought Anthony Quayle was exceptionally good."

Mr Hodges has a grandson at the Society's Craig-y-Parc School — "and he is pictured in the Society's calendar, we are very proud."

## Our pioneering priorities — Director

**TIM Yeo**, the Society's new Director, gave delegates a clear, forceful and informed insight into his views of, and plans for, the Society in his first public address which brought the day's AGM business to an end.

"I've had a great many conversations today and at the reception last night at which five points have emerged very clearly," he said.

"The first point is that it is absolutely critical that all of us concerned with

the same objective for cerebral palsied people should work together.

"We start with you, the local groups — the most important people in the Society — you are the life blood of the organisation. Our staff in schools, centres, regional offices and last and least important people like me in headquarters are interested in the same object."

"Secondly, this society has limited resources of money, people and time and severe financial constraints means we must use these resources in the most important way. Good management is more important

than in a business.

"Thirdly, this Society should continue its pioneering role, one of its greatest achievements in 28 years, which is why I was particularly keen to get this job. Local authorities are not going to innovate so it is up to us to develop new methods, harnessing the latest technology for the benefit of the cerebral palsied."

"Fourthly, pioneering new roles does NOT mean ignoring or abandoning our existing

activities. They remain a major part and likely to have greater importance in the next few years because local authorities are cutting back. We will try to fill the gap so that spastic people do not suffer the brunt of cut backs."

"Finally the Society is one of the largest, most important charities and has potentially the greatest influence to exercise in the media, Parliament, local authorities and the EEC. If we want to exercise it we must be ready to adopt a

higher profile and a more public image. I emphasise one of my great priorities in my first year is to get round and see you on your home ground."

"We must establish proper means of communication. Fill up my diary with engagements!"

"I'm very proud to be appointed Director and the next few years are going to be a particularly exciting time for me and the Society — we can all make it very successful."

OVER five pages in Spastics News about the AGM, hoping to give you a flavour of what it was like to be there. Space restrictions forbid even more pages devoted

to one event, but some of the ideas expressed—especially at the afternoon conference on the Society's role in the 80's—will be taken up in future issues.



## Happy fund raiser



A FISTFUL of fivers held by a happy Avril Marshall — just some of the proceeds from a recent sponsored wheelchair push at the Cleveland Society's centre

in Middlesbrough. In all about £250 was made by the fund-raising event.

Picture by Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough

## 'Talking' machines for two

LITTLE Sally Bickford, aged six, and Leslie Fuller, aged 38, are in touch with the world at last, thanks to the marvels of modern machinery. Both have cerebral palsy and Sally cannot talk.

Now Sally, of Swindon, Wilts, has been given a Possum machine bought with money raised by her mother, Christine, the 1st More-don Guides, and the 21 Shop at British Rail, and has already mastered over two dozen of the machine's 400-plus symbols.

Leslie, who attends Canterbury Training Centre, was so thrilled with the electric typewriter presented to the centre by the Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Group that the first thing he did was kiss it!

For the first time he was able to translate his thoughts into the written word and he typed out:

"I am very pleased about the typewriter. I am very grateful for what you have done for me. Yours ever, Leslie Fuller."

## A walk on the beach

DOROTHY Bartet, the Sister at the Dorset Spastics Society's Langside School for spastics, teamed up with management committee secretary Dennis Bond to organise a sponsored walk along the beach and raised £1,400.

With mounting deficits on the running of both the school and the Edward House residential home both Sister Bartet and Dennis Bond decided that urgent action was needed and promptly set about organising the event.

Over 85 walkers supported them and even the sun shone whilst they trudged from Flag Head Chine to Southbourne — and all the way back again.

BEDFORD Spastics Society benefited from a fashion show and supper party which made £260.

KIDDERMINSTER and District Spastics Association collected £160.77 on their flag day.



"RUSTY" Russell and Daphne Tooley first met 14 years ago as residents at the Society's Hostel in Norwich, but it was only recently that they were able to get married. The severity of Daphne's handicap has been lessened by an operation; and now they are married Rusty jokes: "We've got the best gift we could want—a pair of hands between us."

Picture by Eastern Daily Press

## Charities combine to fight for rights of handicapped

A GROUP of national charities — The Spastics Society among them — have joined forces to fund a three-month project to assist disabled people to obtain the help they need under Section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970, and related legislation.

A number of local authorities are either:

- refusing to assess need for a service
- failing to provide a service after accepting need

— withdrawing a service where need has not diminished.

In particular authorities are refusing or withdrawing a service when a disabled person is unable to meet a new or increased charge. Lawyers have advised that such action is illegal.

The principal services concerned are the provision of home helps, aids and adaptations to the home, holidays and telephones.

The project will be undertaken by Mrs Ursula

Keeble, a social worker and author of "Aids and Adaptations" (Bedford Square Press, 1979).

The charities besides the Society, supporting the project to date are The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, The Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain, The Multiple Sclerosis Society, The Spinal Injuries Association, The Royal National Institute for the Deaf, and it is hoped that others will soon join.



## Poignant ceremony at the Bedfont

FOR nearly 20 years the Bedfont Hotel run by the Society has been providing holidays for the handicapped. In that time the number of guests confined to wheelchairs has risen along with a growth in all

kinds of leisure activities from music, TV watching, to darts, table tennis and handicrafts.

In the end the spacious lounge proved just too small to contain such a wide variety of interests.

So warden Janet Molyneaux began a fund-raising campaign with garden fetes and jumble sales to raise the money for a proper recreation room.

This year saw the building of the brand new recreation room and Mrs Molyneaux decided that numbering rooms made for an institutional atmosphere, and that a name for it would be more suitable.

In the spring Mr Michael

MR Stopford and his family with guests at the dedication of the Charles Room.

Stopford, the Society's Head of Centres, lost his son, Charles, in an Army flying accident just a month after his marriage.

As a tribute to the deep interest Mr Stopford has always shown in the hotel, Mrs Molyneaux approached him with the suggestion that the room should be named after his son, and this was agreed.

A local artist Mr J. Wood created an oil painting of the Stopford family crest and this was unveiled by the chairman of Tendring Council, Coun Fred Good, at a ceremony at the Bedfont, and the room dedicated by Father James Hawes of Our Lady of Light Church, Clacton.

The occasion was witnessed by a gathering of 70 including the Stopford family and well-wishers from Wakes Hall Centre.

## Cerebral palsy study day for doctors

A STUDY day on cerebral palsy for doctors and therapists will be held at Guy's Hospital, London, on November 21, 1980.

Lecture subjects will include "Prevention and Treatment of Scoliosis," "Psychiatric Intervention in families with a handicapped child," "Purposes of Assessment in Motor Disorders of Children," "The Mechanisms and Management of Spasticity," "Problems in the diagnosis of static and progressive disease in childhood" and "Surgical intervention in cerebral palsy."

Registration fee, including lunch, will be £6.00.

Further details from Mrs D. Patterson, MEIU, Newcomen Centre, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RT (Tel (01) 407 7600, Ext 3321).

TO raise money for an ambulance, George Urwin and Terry Fisk stepped into the ring for a charity punch-up. Five boxing matches were the highlight at the Roseberry Gala in Middlesbrough for the Spastics Work and Welfare Centre in the town, raising £215 for the ambulance.

## Busy days for the Chairman

THE Chairman of the Society, Mrs Joyce Smith, attended the Stars Organisation for Spastics AGM at the Martini Rossi Suite, New Zealand House, on October 30. Vice-Chairman W. A. Burn was also present. That evening both Mrs Smith and Mr Burn went to the White City where the SOS held a charity greyhound meeting which is expected to raise £10,000.

On November 6, Mrs Smith travelled to Glamorgan for the visit of Princess Anne to the Society's Craig-y-Parc School and was one of the guests at the official luncheon held in the Mid-Glamorgan County Hall. The following day Mrs Smith went to Taunton for a meeting of the West Region's group representatives and also to make a presentation to Charmian Mould, the Society Senior Regional Officer who is retiring.

Among other engagements will be the Executive Council conference at Castle Priory from November 14-16 and the SOS Annual Ball at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London. On November 26 both Mrs Smith and Tim Yeo, the Director, will visit the Cheyne Walk Spastics Centre in Chelsea.

THE Southport motorcycle club "The Survivors" held a charity dance which raised £150 for the Birkdale holiday home for spastics, Ellerslie Court. The money will be used for redecorating and the club has promised to take some of the guests for a spin on their bikes.

## Your Ads

FOR sale, BEC model 24 dual control electric wheelchair with two batteries and charger. Purchased December 1978, but largely unused in last six months. Price £300.—Tel Banbury 810679 or 810667.

FOR sale: Reselco hand controls, clutch and brake only. Fit any Ford Escort. Price negotiable. Contact Weller, 56 Police Station Road, West Malling, Kent. Tel West Malling 841277.

FOR sale: Wheelchair, Model "E" Newton. Electrically propelled, excellent condition, but without battery and charger. £520 or nearest offer.—Box 103, Spastics News.

MAN aged 40, —cerebral palsied, would like to meet or correspond with unattached lady, around the same age or younger. He works at a children's nursery, near the Oval cricket ground. Please write to Mr Ron Crump, 10 Charing House, Windmill Walk, Lambeth SE1 8TR.

YORKSHIRE lady, aged 27, would like to write to a spastic gentleman. Her interests are mainly reading and singing. Please write to Jayne Wray, Rothwell Grange, Broom Valley Road, Rotherham.

## 'AGRIMOTORS'

(AMG COACHES) MERTON

Coach, Mini-Bus and Car Hire 11, 12, 14, 29, 36, 37, 41 and 45 seaters are available for local and long-distance travel.

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SN Nov



# Naidex '80 attracts 20,000 visitors

WITH the close of the 1980 Naidex exhibition, the organisers were able to note a substantial triumph.

Despite the recession, receipts and numbers were at the same level as last year, although there were fewer delegates attending the seminars. This was because of the difficulty in getting conference halls and as a result fewer seminars were held.

In all 20,000 visitors toured the exhibition and there were 750 conference delegates. This

year the exhibition was held at the Cunard International Hotel, and the conference with its theme: "Disabled People—Positive Living or negative existence?" was centred on Kensington Town Hall.

It was the eighth successive Naidex, and it attracted a number of MPs, as well as the All-Party Disabled Group, and members of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. Conference delegates came from East Germany, Sweden, Hong Kong, Australia, France, New Zealand and the USA.

Next year, the Year of the Disabled Person, Naidex will have as its theme: "A Part or Apart—the removal of barriers for disabled people." It is taking place at the Royal Showground at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire from October 21-24. The seminars will be on sport and leisure, research and rehabilitation, housing, volunteers, integration between social workers, occupational therapists and physiotherapists, the international charter for the '80s, sexual and personal problems and integration in education.

● Staging next year's Naidex at the Royal Showground is an interesting development and will find favour with many people in the provinces.

The famous Showground

had a foretaste of welcoming large numbers of disabled people when, early in October, Handicap '80 — a unique event where visitors whatever their disability, could "have a go" at probably the widest range of activities, sports and hobbies ever brought together in one place — was held there. The event was organised by the Arthur Rank Centre in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Society of England. It was tailored to suit every type of disability, with the main activities taking place in the large exhibition halls.

A wide range of sports were demonstrated by able-bodied and disabled experts, and the final day of Handicap '80, took the form of a sports day, organised by

the Coventry Sports Association for the Disabled.

The Royal Showground is the headquarters of the Riding for Disabled Association, which arranged a display of riding with stewards on hand to answer questions and give advice.

Everything from hanging baskets to vegetable growing was covered in the extensive gardening section, and visitors saw the National Agricultural Centre's permanent garden for the blind and disabled, where many of the techniques displayed are currently being put into practical use.

Among the craft activities that visitors to Handicap '80 tried out were woodcarving, metalwork, pottery, corn-dolly making, painting — plus the more

"domestic" crafts of cookery and dressmaking.

Two more of the NAC's permanent displays; the Home Food Unit, which demonstrates ways in which visitors could produce some of their own food, rear poultry, rabbits and goats and keep bees, and the permanent farmyard, with its range of traditional farm animals, were also open to visitors.

A selection of farm animals was on show in the main exhibition hall for visitors with restricted mobility.

The Open University's Post - Experience Courses Unit planned a "talkabout" for the Friday and Saturday of the weekend event, with discussions focusing on some of the difficulties facing the disabled.

## News about the Spastics Pool

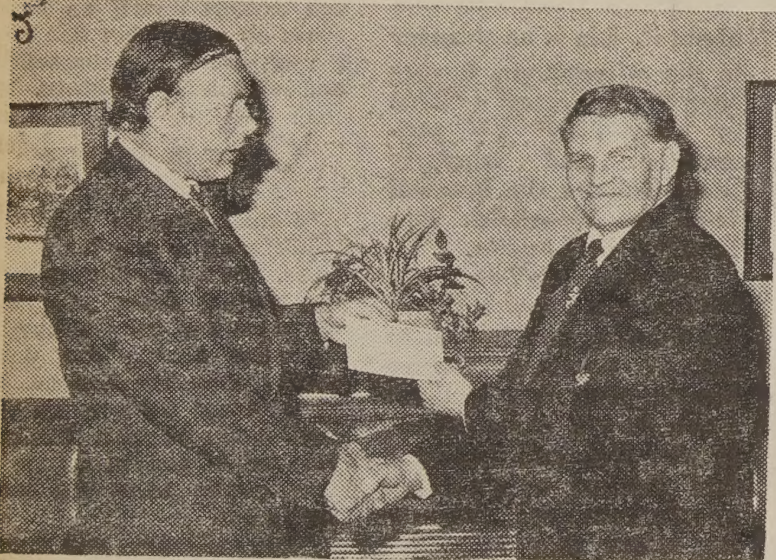
THE Ladies Guild appeal on behalf of the Swansea and District Spastics Association has received a donation of £2,000 from the Bristol-based Good Neighbours Trust, which will enable the association to take delivery of a new ambulance coach early in 1981.

The cheque for £2,000 was presented to Mrs Joan Owen, hon treasurer of the Ladies Guild, by Mr Kenneth Long, a trustee of the Good Neighbours Trust, at Longfields Spastic Centre, West Cross, Swansea.

Said Joan Owen: "This has been our most ambitious project and we are delighted the ambulance coach will be delivered in January when the Guild celebrates its 21st anniversary."



A PLEASANT task for Spastics Pool supervisor, Jack Kirby, presenting a cheque for £1,250 to Mr W. Tutty, of Kettleby Lane, Wrawby, Brigg, South Humberside.



MR Archie Simmonds, of Avon Crescent, Brockworth, Gloucester, did not lose any time in celebrating his £10,000 first-dividend win. He received his cheque from Mr Michael Whitbread, Director of Whitbread Flowers Ltd, at the "Flying Machine" public house, Brockworth.



COUNCIL employee, Mr I. S. Jenkins, of Yeovil, receiving a cheque for £5,000 from the Mayor of Yeovil, Coun Stan Oakes, at the Council Social Club. Also pictured is Mrs Jenkins.

## Grim outlook on jobs for disabled

Continued from Page 1

"Our order books aren't full but they are ticking over and we've re-acquired one contract for Philips lighting so our trainees as we say up here, are 'not out of collar' — out of work."

Ross Richards is manager of the Sully Work Centre in Wales. "We've been hit. We've about two-thirds of our normal throughput, and two months ago we were down to a quarter. Round Cardiff a lot of large factories are on a two-day week. Our 65 workers make spirit levels, clocks, porch lanterns and the insides of fruit machines, and we are still operating a five-day week.

"It's not profitable but we are entrenched."

The Norwich Work Centre run by its local group was one of the first to be severely affected, and did, in fact, go on a three-day week.

Ray Trusswell, the deputy manager, explained: "The publicity we got as a result on TV and in the papers brought us work, but we are not out of the wood yet.

One or two of our original customers are staying with us but the effect of the recession means that they are going slow. Things are running reasonably smoothly—at present."

The Plymouth Work Centre's manager Roy Johnson reported: "Firms round us are in a very bad way. One of the biggest is completely closing down.

The Percy Hedley Day Work Centre in Newcastle —with the School represents the biggest concentration of cerebral palsied people in Europe — and the centre with 70 heavily handicapped workers is the biggest in the country.

Manager Gordon Tully said: "We've got just enough work at the moment but the future looks very, very black and I don't know what's going to happen. We've got very good customers, but the work for them is drying up.

"I'm very worried at the moment — things are getting very tough."

Mike Holmes is the Society's Industrial Centre's Adviser and he said: "As far as I'm concerned there is no question of shutting any of the centres run nationally or locally. The work is not plentiful and things are not good. It is the same as the last recession when the three-day week meant we had to seek alternative work.

"That often has two effects — one is that the work is not very stimulating and secondly, because beggars can't be choosers, it is not very well paid. In some instances the last recession did us a number

of favours. We lost some contracts, and got better ones, but I feel this recession is different.

"There's no need to panic at the moment but if you ask me in three or six

months time I might well be panicking. I haven't got a crystal ball but I feel things are going to get worse, and I don't know how this will affect our work centres."

## Director's appeal

THE Society's Director, Tim Yeo, made this plea to industry throughout the country:

"I appeal to all kinds of businesses to consider whether any of these products and services they buy in for their own use could be sub contracted through our work centres.

"Although work centres are always hit straightaway when the economy goes down, what people have got to remember is that both the quality and pricing of what we do is highly competitive."

## Calendar 1981



### WITH 12 SUPERB COLOUR PHOTO'S

Especially produced by The Spastics Society for the International Year of Disabled People is a delightful calendar containing 12 colour portraits of children. Photography is by the international photographer John Young, and the subjects were carefully selected to emphasise the charm and innocence of young children.

The overall size is 17½" x 10½", and the high standard of photography and printing combine to give a calendar of outstanding quality. The ideal gift for your friends.

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● MARGARET Cresswell, Edge Grove's headmaster Jimmy Pratt, and teacher Peter Talbot, with the children who gave, and the children who received, the Family Help Unit's biggest ever single donation. Looking at the plaque which marks their achievement are George Da Silva and Toby Davis, both 12, along with Richard Lambourne and Richard Edwards, who are staying at the Unit.



● TOBY Davis, 12, gets a big "Thank you" hug from Richard Edwards, aged six, while teacher Peter Talbot, Headmaster Jimmy Pratt and fellow Edge Grove pupil George Da Silva look on.

## Centres praised

BRICKBATS are many and bouquets few in the world of big business, so Bill Mitchell, the Supplies Officer, was particularly pleased to come across a tribute to one sector of the Society's work in the trade journal "Mind your own business."

"Imagine a company with 1,500 employees, with 29 factories in locations from Newcastle to Plymouth, experts in light engineering, printing, electrical assembly, and packaging, operating a full back up transportation service. Able to quote competitive prices and reliable delivery dates. All these benefits are offered by The Spastics Society Work Centres.

"Contracts which at present are in their workshops are for many of this country's largest companies. Work placed by them is not based on any charitable ideal but because their workers are able to produce goods and services that are well made, delivered on time, and produced at a competitive price."

## 'We will raise £100 said the boys, so how did they end up with £4,642 for a playroom?

THE pupils of exclusive Edge Hill prep school in Radlett, Herts, are privileged—set apart by health and wealth from many of their contemporaries—so they decided to fund raise for a worthy cause. The only problem was—they didn't know of one!

They solved it by going to their local church and asking the Vicar if he could suggest anything. He in turn put it to his committee and one of the members was a mother whose child had often stayed at The Spastics Society's Family Help Unit at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. She immediately suggested the unit because many handicapped children in the Hertfordshire area had been helped by it.

The school decided to donate £100, and asked the unit what it would like? —Margaret Cresswell who

runs the unit wrote back and included information about the work done there.

Back came a letter from the school—they wanted to raise the donation to £500; what could Margaret suggest for that sum?

In reply Margaret said that to cover-over the area by the dining room and playroom would give them a bit of extra space for children to play in. With 12 children in a unit designed for 10, play space was at a premium and this would be an ideal project.

Teacher Peter Talbot at that point paid a visit and suggested that for a bit more money they could have a bigger play area, and wouldn't that be nicer? Margaret said "yes," and Peter added: "We are actually thinking in terms of £2,500..."

In fact Peter underestimated the eventual sum raised by nearly half. A sponsored sports day which

involved the boys in a host of activities from swimming to three-legged races, and including Richard Baker guessing hymn tunes, brought in a staggering £4,642.

Work started on the playroom extension in May and by July it was finished with the unit's handyman Brian Lowe doing the flooring, decorating, and wiring. The building cost £4,995 in all, and the Society gave a grant of £500 and the local West Suffolk group £180 towards the curtains.

"In the end," said Margaret, "we found ourselves with very large windows."

The playroom was officially opened in October and a party from Edge Hill shown round. "Before—when we hadn't got the playroom we made do with what we had—now we just can't imagine managing without it!" said Margaret.

## 'This is my life' by Lin Berwick

POSSIBLY the City of London's most famous telephonist, Lin Berwick, who is blind and spastic, is now an author in her own right with the publication of her autobiography, "Undeclared."

On the day of its launch Lin appeared on the BBC Radio 4 programme "Woman's Hour" to talk about it. Lin is no stranger to the microphone, having been the subject of a "This Is Your Life" TV programme, and regularly broadcasts on the hospital radio at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London.

But she confessed: "When you know millions are listening you can't help but be nervous. I love broadcasting but I don't know how I came across. It was live and before I had finished speaking people were ringing up asking where they could get

hold of a copy of the book!"

Lin plans to follow up her book with more writing "I can express myself on equal terms on paper" but this time the subjects will be counselling and relationship problems.

### 'Open book'

"I shall give the sequel to 'Undeclared' a rest for a few years. It's a very strange feeling putting down your life on paper and truly making it an open book. You don't realise the implications of some things till you see the stark reality in print. The private act of writing a page is very public when the book comes out.

"I'm thrilled—and apprehensive. I want it to do well, not just for sales but in case it can help others who are disabled."

Lin's book costs £1.95 and is published by the Epworth Press.

## Young vandals in 'vicious' attacks

Continued from Page 1

dered for some time and could have caused a very serious outbreak of fire.

"In addition, these vandals have picked on the centre's ambulance," he said. "In recent months they have smashed its windows, kicked in its doors, daubed human excrement all over the bodywork and siphoned off petrol.

"In addition, the spastic workers have had to endure the humiliation of arriving and leaving to a barrage of jeers and V-signs and chants of 'Spackos'.

"Attacks on work centres for the handicapped have been a problem to the Society over the

years and they reveal that some members of the public not only have no understanding of the problems of handicapped people but are positively and horrifyingly hostile to them.

"Only a very real attempt to educate people into different attitudes can change this state of affairs," said Mr Yeo. "It is up to schools and parents to try to do the job."

Mr Harry Forster, manager of the Chester Work Centre, says that short of guarding the centre with dogs and having an electric fence surround there seems no way of keeping the vandals out since they ignore all pleas with obscene remarks.

Appeals to a neighbouring school have gone unanswered

on the grounds that staff cannot be responsible for the behaviour of pupils after school hours.

Next to the Chester Work Centre is the Blacon nursery school for handicapped children which has also had stones thrown through the windows—once when the children were inside. In addition, all their copper waste pipes have been stolen.

Chester Work Centre has so far paid out £1,000 for damage repairs and is now £9,000 in deficit.

Other Spastic Society work centres which have been damaged recently include Meadow Works in Birmingham, where windows have been broken and regular break-ins have taken place, and the Miriam Harris Work Centre in Chingford, which has now expended £1,800 on a burglar alarm to try to keep intruders out.

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## SPASTICS NEWS

Published by The Spastics Society.

Editor: Sheila Jenner.

Editorial office: The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4QE. Tel: 01-636 5020.

Advertising representative: H. A. Collins Ltd, 37 Ruskin Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3BQ. Tel 01-647 1393.

The views expressed in Spastics News are not necessarily those of The Spastics Society.

Printed by F. J. Parsons, Observer Buildings, Cambridge Road, Hastings, Sussex.